

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

TWELFTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Columbia Baptist Association,

HELD WITH

Camp Spring Church, Henry County, Alabama,
October 28th, 29th, and 30th, 1896.

OFFICERS:

W. C. CLEVELAND

Modérateur

F. W. ZIMMERMAN

Clerk

B. A. FORRESTER

Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Dan Williams, N. S. Folsom, F. R. Atwell, J. A. Cunningham,
J. S. Williams, and B. A. Forrester.

Next Session will be held with Bluff Spring Church, Wetumpka,
before the first Sunday in November, 1897, at 10:30 A. M.

DOHHAN, A. A.
FIVE WIRE-GRASS SEEDINGS.
1896.

Camp Springs, Henry Co., Ala., Oct. 28th, 1896.

The Columbia Baptist Association in its 12th annual session assembled with Camp Springs Church this the 28th day of October 1896, 10:30 A. M., W. C. Cleveland presiding.

After devotional exercises Bro. S. A. Savell, in the absence of Bro. W. M. Barr, preached the Introductory Sermon on Acts 2:42. At the close of this sermon, given to the elucidation of apostolic doctrine, fellowship, the Lord's Supper and prayer, the Association took recess for dinner to reassemble at 1:30 P. M.

The brethren announced that a plentiful repast, to which all are invited, was spread in the grove.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association was called to order at 1:30 by the Moderator, prayer by Bro. M. P. Reynolds.

The church letters were then called for. They were read by N. S. Fellows and M. P. Reynolds and the following

LIST OF CHURCHES AND MESSENGERS

was enrolled:

1. Ashford—R. M. Jackson, C. C. Radney, J. R. Kelly.
2. Balkum—Wm. J. Smith, S. C. T. Sasser.
3. Bluff Springs—A. P. Siquefield, Thos. Forrester, O. L. McArthur.
4. Camp Springs—W. H. Howard, J. H. Lane.
5. Columbia—A. A. Jones, W. C. Cleveland, W. P. Stewart.
6. Cowarts—T. A. Jones, R. L. Kirkland, Lindon Kirkland.
7. Dothan—T. R. Leslie, F. W. Zimmerman, Dan Williams.
8. Ebenezer—E. R. Hudson, Jno. Bruner, J. A. Givens.
9. Halesburg—S. A. Savell, W. N. Skelton.
10. Hickory Grove—Jno. R. Granger, J. G. Miller.
11. Liberty—Sidney Willoughby, J. S. Williams.
12. Memphis—Thos. Butler, T. L. Butler, S. T. Spivey, J. C. Stewart.
13. Midway—J. D. Long, C. M. Murphy.
14. Mt. Ararat—W. R. Nall, A. D. Brackin.
15. Mt. Gillead—J. C. Carroll, J. A. Jones.
16. Mt. Enon—J. J. Deal, U. H. Holton.
17. Mt. Pleasant—J. N. Box, W. E. Mann, Aris Armstrong.
18. Mt. Sinai—T. B. Fortson.
19. New Providence—T. R. Atwell.
20. Pleasant Plains—W. F. Davis, C. V. Miller.

21. Pilgrims Rest—H. Oswald, W. H. Miller.
22. Rehoboth—E. Sharpton.
23. Shiloh—Moses Deese, W. A. Maddox.
24. Selma—Daniel Folsom, Sylvester Martin, D. M. Hambrick.
25. Union Hill—C. S. Spivey, J. A. Cameron.

The Association was then organized with the following election of officers: W. C. Cleveland, Moderator; F. W. Zimmerman, Clerk; B. A. Forrester, Treasurer.

Petitionary letters were called for, upon which the following churches and messengers applied for admission and were cordially received and welcomed:

1. Bethel—B. B. Parson, G. W. Taylor.
2. Enterprise---R. D. Dixon, W. F. Gilstrap.
3. New Prospect---J. T. Culbreth, J. M. Hall.
4. Sharon---Hosea Temples.

Bro. S. Williford requested admission for his church, just organized, but as the delegates bore no letter, this Association, under the present Constitution is without power to admit, hence we ask them to return at our next session, when we will be gratified to receive their application.

Messengers from corresponding Associations were called for, and the following were received and welcomed:

Judson Association---W. M. White, M. V. Capps, W. H. Capps, A. J. Armstrong, A. J. Preston, W. H. Martin.

West Florida Association---J. D. Courtney.

Rocky Creek Association---D. F. Stewart, Geo. Stewart.

Eufaula Association---M. P. Reynolds.

Called for volunteer Messengers to Corresponding Associations and appointed:

Judson Association---W. C. Cleveland, Aris Armstrong, J. J. White, Dan Williams, J. R. Keyton.

Newton Association---W. C. Cleveland, S. T. Spivey.

West Florida Association---J. J. White, G. W. Oliff, R. D. Dixon

Rocky Creek Association---W. P. Stewart, J. M. Hall.

Messengers to the Baptist State Convention were appointed: J. R. Keyton, B. G. Farmer, W. M. Burr.

Elected Delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention, which convenes on the 2nd Sunday in May---W. C. Cleveland, alternate B. G. Farmer.

Called for Report on Home Missions. Same was read by B. G. Farmer.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

The Home Mission Board is located in Atlanta, Ga., and its field of operation is the territory embraced in the Southern Baptist Convention together with the island of Cuba. It sustains about the same relation to our State Mission Boards as the latter sustains to the Boards or Executive Committees of our District Associations. It works in connection with our State Boards both in the collection and distribution of its funds; but it also works among the destitute on our western frontier and among the Indian tribes of the West and among the negroes in some parts of the South, and among the foreign population of some of the larger cities. Bro. McAlpine is the missionary of this Board and is doing fine work in this state among the negro preachers and deacons, holding institutes for them. Bro. J. M. Brittain is doing a similar work in Georgia.

From the fifty-first annual report made to the Southern Baptist Convention at its meeting in Chattanooga, Tenn., last May, we gather the following

—SUMMARY—

for the past Conventional year as follows:

Missionaries	411
Weeks of Labor	12,320
Churches and Stations	1,620
Sermons and Addresses	58,041
Prayer Meetings	9,622
Baptisms	5,617
Received by Letter	6,672
Total Additions	13,295
Sunday Schools Organized	372
Teachers and Pupils	12,635
Religious Visits	61,498
Churches Constituted	207
Houses of Worship built	92
Houses of Worship improved	146
Amount expended on houses of Worship	\$86,209
Bibles and Testaments distributed	2,595
Tracts distributed [pages]	726,675

The State Boards of Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Indian Territory, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Western Arkansas and Western North Carolina are in cooperation with us in part or whole of their work.

We incorporate also the report of the Treasurer of the Board showing the receipts and expenditures during the last conventional year

Consolidated report of the Treasurer of the

—HOME MISSION BOARD—

May 1, 1896. By cash received from May 1, 1895		\$75,927.54
Bills payable	\$31,920	
Less amount paid back	\$26,970	\$7,950.00
Amount raised and expended on field for		
Mission work as per report		\$59,010.00
Amount for houses of worship		\$80,801.00
Total Receipts Cash and Vouchers		\$223,688.54
To cash expenditures	\$83,764.83	
To expenditures on field	\$139,811.00	
To cash on hand	\$112.71	\$223,688.54

WALKER DIMSON, Treasurer

The Home Mission Board returns its most grateful acknowledgements to the Giver of all Good for the blessings which have attended it during the past year.

The labors of its Missionaries have been attended by the Divine Spirit so that only once before in all its history has the Board been able to report such results

Comparative estimate showing the advantages and advancement over last year:

	1895	1896
Weeks of labor	11,460	12,329
Sermons and Address	46,620	58,041
Prayer Meetings	5,774	9,622
Total additions by letter and baptism	10,564	13,295
Religious visits	52,080	61,498
Churches constituted	178	207
Houses of Worship built	2	92
Houses of Worship improved		146
Tracts distributed, pages	584,938	726,675

Respectfully submitted

F S TWITTY
J H LANE, } Committee
A F. STANTON, }

Called for

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your Committee to whom was referred the subject of State Missions beg leave to submit the following:

The Mission fields comprise State, Home and Foreign. All that region beyond the seas, and including Mexico, constitute the foreign field. The Home field is composed of destitute places in the States that compose the Southern Baptist Convention, among the Indians and in Cuba. The State field is confined to Alabama alone, and the Board into whose hands this work is placed is known as 'The State Board of Missions.' We have been thus definite from the fact that some of our brethren confound Home Missions with State Mission. The term 'Home' is used to designate the field from 'Foreign.'

The successful mission work depends largely on the work done in the State;—that is, in proportion as our State is occupied and thoroughly organized will Home and Foreign Missions be augmented. Hence the basal work depends upon the State work.

The great evangelizing power of the Gospel is found in missionary work. In fact all Christian work may be termed, in a sense, Missionary work,—our Pastors and all Christian workers are missionaries. God's first mission to Earth, after the Sin of Adam, was in the interest of this fallen man and his posterity. "And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God." No sooner did man sin than the Creator become concerned about his future state. Therefore from the fall of man till time shall be no more this divine interest will continue. 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel, beginning at Jerusalem,'—this is the divine command. It is plain and explicit; as given to the Apostles, so it is given to us. There can be no dodging this great responsibility. Now then, what is our duty as members of Baptist Churches? We reply give of our means to send the Gospel to the poor, the needy, the ignorant at home and abroad. We should be liberal. Isaiah says: the liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand. (22ch 8v) "Thou shalt give unto the Lord thy God according as the Lord thy God hath blessed thee" (Deut. 16ch 10v.) What did our Savior say about giving? "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20ch 35v.) Let us then as Christians come up to the full measure of our duty as members of the Baptist denomination, and be liberal in our contributions for all mission work, that the Gospel may be preached to all people, that our missionaries, who are giving their time and talents to the spread of the Gospel may have a sufficiency to support themselves and families, that the coming of God's kingdom may be hastened and His name be honored among all the nations. 'Thou shalt open thy hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, to thy needy in my land' (Deut. 15ch 11v.) Respectfully submitted,

M. CODY, SR., Chairman.

The foregoing reports were tabled to be called up as special order of business at 9:30 Thursday.

Called for report of the Committee on Ministerial Education.
W. P. Stewart read the

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

There is no subject of more importance than Ministerial Education and never has there been a time in the world's history, when there was greater need of power in the pulpit. The progress in Arts and Science naturally calls for advanced ministerial education. While we would not forget the valuable pioneer work of our brethren, who had not the advantage of a College-training, and they have accomplished much, yet there remains much to be achieved. They have gone into wastelands and preached the word with power; they have built churches and, with tears and prayers laid the foundation of our schools and colleges, that our present generations may be blessed with opportunities they had not. Feeling keenly the need of these institutions, reared and built after hard-fought battles, they labor to support them and broaden their usefulness.

It is our solemn duty to encourage and support the work of Ministerial Education. The Lord says that many of the noble and learned were called, but they had excuses, and it seems that nearly all of our Preachers are poor and self-educated. They are unable to prepare and fit themselves for their grand work and yet no other investment could possibly pay such dividends as that of educating pious young men, called of God to preach his Gospel. We have now 20 young men in Howard College and in my more are ready to prepare themselves for the Master's work, if the means were furnished. And it is true also that the Baptists of our Association are ready to assist with their means whenever this important matter is properly brought before them. Pastors of the Columbia Association, keep the subject of Ministerial Education before your churches, and let us double the number of our students at Howard College before the next session.

W. P. STEWART, }
LANGLEY SASSER, } Committee
JAMES COOLY. }

This report was made special order of business for 3:30 P. M.
Thursday.

Called for

REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL LITERATURE.

We your committee beg to report as follows on Denominational Literature:

This being a reading age, every Baptist family should be supplied with religious books and papers, and be careful to see that none of the trashy stuff now afloat be allowed a place in our homes, which we fear is too frequently done. Baptists will make no mistake to give the Bible the first place in their homes, which should by all means be studied with diligence and prayer, besides it is a duty enjoined on us all by our Savior (St. John 5ch 39v.) It is of vast importance that other good literature be allowed a place in our homes, as such we would recommend to our Baptist brethren of this Association the Alabama Baptist specially. In it we have the denominational organ of the state. It is published in the city of Montgomery for the low price of one dollar and a half per annum. It contains a weekly statement of the field work, the events of our different institutions of the state. And to those who desire to read more we conscientiously recommend the Texas Baptist Standard, published at Waco, Texas. The Christian Index published at Atlanta, Ga. And Mission Journal, published at Richmond, Va., and other good denominational papers, which would consume too much space to mention here. All of which is within easy reach of those desiring to read. These papers give us information of our denominational work and needs, and ought to be in every Baptist home, in all this land, for we are always better after reading good books and papers written by inspired pens and cultivated Christian minds.

To the Sunday Schools we recommend the Southern Baptist Convention Series, published at Nashville, Tenn., and sold by J. B. Collier, Secretary, Montgomery, Ala. Brethren of the Columbia Association: Beware of the trashy literature now afloat and for sale in our country, it is demoralizing, it is ruinous.

Respectfully submitted,

J. A. SUMMERFORD }
W. P. JORDAN } Committee.
S. T. SHIVER }

This report was tabled to be taken up at 9:30 A. M. Friday.

Called for report on Sunday Schools. B. A. Forrester asked for time to examine the church letters for the necessary information, which was granted, the report to be called for at 2:30 P. M. Thursday.

Called for

REPORT ON ORPHANS'S HOME.

The Orphanage is permanently located at Evergreen Ala. on property purchased at a cost of \$5000 00. The debt has been paid off and this valuable property is now free from encumbrance. It consists of 80 acres of land on Main St., of which 30 acres are in farm, 30 in woods and 20 in pasture. All has been fenced with a substantial woven wire fence and a commodious barn has been built.

In this home have been received 29 boys and 31 girls, and out of it have gone by adoption 14 girls by apprenticeship 2 boys. Girls are not apprenticed and boys only in rare cases. The children attend the Agricultural School and most of them are doing well. All attend Sunday School and Church and are under firm, steady, loving control. Eight have been baptized.

Brethren, there are more applications at the Orphanage than they can receive.

At present they are in pressing need of a cookroom, a laundry room and a dining room and during the terrible scourge they found their urgent need of a sickroom.

Now will the brethren and the friends of the Orphanage provide the means for these needed additions and make the Home of such capacity and convenience that the present inmates may be comfortable and room made for more?

Respectfully submitted,

S. A. SAVELL H. H. POOL, T. R. ATWELL.

After discussion by S. A. Savell and S. Williford and a collection of \$9.25 for the Home, above report was adopted.

Called for Treasurer's Report. B. A. Forrester offered the same and it was received.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

B. A. Forrester in account with the Columbia Baptist Association:

	Dr.		Cr.
Oct. 11, 1895, Balance due from 1894	\$ 4.78		
Cash from Finance Committee	182.38		
	\$187.16		
Oct. 11, 1895 Paid W. B. Crumpton			\$101.05
Oct. 28, 1895 Paid Orphan's Home			32.37
Nov. 12, 1895 Paid for Printing Minutes			27.00
Paid Clerk's Fee, W. M. Burr			25.00
Balance on hand			1.74
To Balance due	\$11.74		\$187.16

B. A. FORRESTER Treasurer.

Appointed the following Committees:

On Nominations—T. R. Atwell, W. P. Jordan, T. A. Jones.

On Finance—W. F. Davis, N. S. Fellows, J. A. Summerford.

On Time and Place—B. A. Forrester, C. C. Radney, J. A. Cameron.

On Preaching—Delegates of Camp Springs and S. Martin.

On State of Churches—S. T. Spivey, R. D. Dixon, Dan Williams.

S. A. Savell read out assignment of homes to delegates.

The Committee on Foreign Missions being absent, the following: J. R. Keyton, Aris Armstrong, W. D. Knowles, were elected in place of the absent Committee to report at 9:30 A. M. Thursday.

At 4 o'clock a motion to adjourn to 9:30 A. M. tomorrow prevailed.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION.

Called to order at 9:30 by the Moderator.

Minutes of the first day's session were read and adopted.

J. R. Keyton offered the following

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS

The duty of evangelizing the world was made imperative by the Son of God more than 1800 years ago, and the command is still as binding upon the churches as it was the day it fell from the Master's lips.

The Christian dispensation was ushered in by Missionaries. John the Baptist was a Baptist sent from God; or in other words, he was a Missionary Baptist for the word Missionary means one sent.

The next Missionary of which we read was an Angel from God sent to the shepherds, which said "Behold I evangelize unto you great joy which shall be unto all people."

Then Christ declares that he was sent by the Father; therefore Christ was a missionary and we are to follow his example. Then we have twelve missionaries sent out by Christ, which we call Apostles. Now if we would build upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone, we must be Missionaries.

Our Foreign Mission Board is located in Richmond Va., Dr. R. J. Willingham is our Corresponding Secretary, and is doing all in his power to carry out the commission of Christ, to preach the gospel to every creature. We have about 86 Missionaries now working in China, Africa, Italy, Brazil, Mexico and Japan. Our present membership in Foreign fields is 4,295; S. S. scholars 1,713; Houses of worship 30. We also have about 75 native helpers who are doing good and faithful work. These converts from our Foreign fields, though they are poor, yet they contributed liberally of their means. They contributed last year \$5,553.20. While the work on some of our Foreign fields has been slow and difficult yet we have great reason to rejoice and take courage, for the Lord has abundantly blessed most of our work.

Respectfully submitted,

ARIS ARMSTRONG, JOHN R. KEYTON W. D. KNOWLES.

This report was tabled to be taken up in connection with Home and State Missions.

The Committee on Temperance was absent and B. A. Forrester, J. J. White and A. J. Preston were elected to fill the vacancy and make report at 10 A. M. Friday.

Called for special orders of business for 9:30 and the reports on State, Home and Foreign Missions were taken up. Discussion by S. A. Savell, M. P. Reynolds, W. P. Stewart, B. G. Farmer, B. A. Forrester and W. C. Cleveland. After a collection of \$17.41 for Missions, the several reports on Missions were adopted.

The hour for services having arrived business was suspended at 11 o'clock.

After the Sermon by Bro. M. P. Reynolds on Luke 12: 19. Subject: "Covetousness," took recess for dinner, to reassemble at 1:30 sharp.

THURSDAY.--AFTERNOON SESSION.

Called to order by the Moderator and session opened with prayer by T. R. Leslie.

Appointed to report at the next session, the following

STANDING COMMITTEES.

1. On State Mission—W. P. Stewart, A. A. Jones, E. E. Killingsworth.
2. Home Missions—S. A. Savell, J. R. Jackson, S. T. Hall.
3. Foreign Missions—J. T. Davis Sr., J. F. Hasty, W. A. Maddox.
4. Temperance—J. J. White, Milus Kirkland, N. S. Fellows.
5. Ministerial Education—R. B. Stapleton, Dr. Twitty, J. R. Keyton.
6. Education—B. G. Farmer, T. R. Atwell, R. L. Kirkland.
7. Denominational Literature—B. A. Forrester, J. H. Lane, C. V. Miller.
8. Sunday Schools—G. W. Oliff, A. F. Sinquefeld, J. N. Yon.
9. Orphanage—S. Martin, Dan Polson, J. A. Cameron.

The following Churches by their delegates present pledged their best efforts to raise 25c for each of their members for Missionary purposes, to be brought up at the next session: Ashford, Balkum, Bluff Spring, Camp Spring, Columbia, Cowarts, Dothan, Ebenezer, Halesburg, Hickory Grove, Memphis, Midway, Mt. Ararat, Mt. Gilad, Mt. Enon, Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Sinai, New Providence, Pilgrim's Rest, Pleasant Plains, Rehoboth, Shiloh, Selma, Union Hill, Bethel, Enterprise, Sharon, Antioch.

Called up special business at 2.30 and B. A. Forrester offered the

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

It is only a few years ago that very few Churches within the bounds of this Association reported active Sunday Schools. From the letters of these 31 Churches we find that a majority of them now take a lively interest in this grand work and that they have live, energetic Sunday Schools in 22 of the 31. That the Sunday School work is the work of the Master is a fact that cannot be controverted and the most invincible proofs are the numerous accessions to church membership from the S. S. as reported by our Churches.

The command of the Lord to the disciples to teach all nations whatsoever he had commanded them, also comes to us. Therefore, it becomes our imperative duty to teach the word of God, and we can do it best in the organized Sunday School.

We would urge every Church without a S. S. to go to work at once and show yourselves approved workmen. Get in line and shoulder to shoulder with all the other Churches of this Association bring up at the next session a full report of an active Sunday School.

Respectfully submitted,

B. A. FORRESTER, J. A. CAMERON, J. M. BAXLEY

This report was spoken to by S. A. Savell, B. G. Farmer, A. J. Preston, J. R. Keyton, and then tabled to be called up Friday morning.

Special business, at 3.30, Ministerial Education was called up. Dr. Hale, who was introduced and cordially welcomed by the Moderator, opened the discussion, subject: "Howard College" and the following pledges were made toward the liquidation of its debts:

Columbia Church, paid	\$150.00
B. A. Forrester	50.00
J. R. Keyton, in his Churches	25.00
T. R. Leslie, in Dothan Church	100.00
	<hr/>
	\$325.00

Report on Ministerial Education was again tabled for Friday. B. G. Farmer read the

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

On page 11 of the minutes of the last session of this Association my name appears as chairman of a Committee on Education; it therefore is expected of me to write something about Education to be submitted to this session of such Association.

The purpose of every undertaking and the discussion of every subject by this body and the plan to attain the end determined by this Association from these discussions, are for the betterment of mankind, for the edification, the building up of boys and girls, men and women in their social, moral and religious relations in our bounds in these midsts and within the length of our cable too.

Education builds up and edifies, but it is becoming in the writer to say that every educated man or woman is not so trained and prepared that he or she can fill and occupy high and important places in these responsible relations; neither is it a fact that every man and woman is unfitted for places of trust and disqualified to occupy and enjoy the emoluments of offices of honor and distinction because such ones are not learned in books and the branches of science as taught in our schools and colleges.

In the early ages of our civilization it was education and the sole purpose of educational intent to develop the muscle, the brawn, the physique of pupil—cultivating for war and endurance the entire physical man except the mind, leaving this "dynamo of the human make up" as its truthfully called, untutored, unlearned and in the rough surrounded by every other force or power of the human being developed and shaped for all the important purposes sought by education. With us in this advanced age it is easy to tell the worth or rather the lack of such an education for we know that when the emergency came and educated men were called to the front and the order given to do the work their education qualified them to perform, the great mind power, rough, undeveloped and dull, was lacking to contrive and direct the consummation of what the brawn was able to accomplish if judiciously directed. And so we see that education was a failure. But education the people must have; so in a later age of our civilization the ends desired and attained in the education of the people was a high state of the development of the mind to the entire exclusion of every other physical force of the human being and in this condition the educated were called to duty and while the mind was able to plan and contrive, the other human forces weak, wasted and puny were unequal to the occasion and thus it was that education was again a failure. And so we must know that every important element of our being must be educated, must be trained, must be developed—the muscle, the mind and the heart must be taught. The muscle and the brawn must be taught and developed and men and women must be strong on this line so that a trained and educated brain when planning and laying out its purposes may have its proper support in its execution. Also we need and must have the heart developed in the fear of God to high and noble purposes that strong men in mind and body may be guided and guarded by all that is pure and holy.

Report was adopted.

The Association then adjourned at 4 o'clock to meet again at 9 o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY.--MORNING SESSION.

After devotional exercises by J. R. Keyton, the Moderator called the body to order at the appointed time, 9:30

Read and adopted the minutes of Thursday's session.

Read and corrected Roll of Delegates.

Special order of business called for and the subject of Denominational Literature was discussed by J. R. Keyton, A. J. Preston, W. C. Cleveland and the report adopted.

J. R. Keyton read the

REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS AND DEACONS.

We feel thankful to our Heavenly Father that your Committee finds no deaths to report among our Preachers and Deacons during the past Associational year.

Respectfully submitted

N. S. FELLOWS, T. M. SPIVEY, W. R. NALL.

This report was adopted.

Ministerial Education as special order was taken up at 10:30 and discussed by W. P. Stewart, A. J. Preston, W. C. Cleveland and adopted.

Called for Report on Temperance. J. J. White offered the following:

RESOLUTION ON TEMPERANCE

Resolved, that in our opinion the use and sale of intoxicants should be discouraged and discountenanced by our people, and, that any brother engaging, aiding or abetting in such sale should be excluded from our Churches.

J. J. WHITE, B. A. FORRESTER, A. J. PRESTON.

Report on Sunday Schools as special order was then taken from the table and discussed by S. A. Savell, B. G. Farmer, J. R. Keyton—S. A. Savell offered the following as an amendment to the report:

RESOLUTIONS ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

"Resolved, that in our opinion it is best for our people to have their Convention and not engage in Union Sunday School Conventions"

This amendment was concurred in and the report adopted.

Called for Report on State of Churches. This report was adopted as read by S. T. Spivey:

REPORT ON STATE OF CHURCHES.

We your Committee beg leave to make the following Report: We find all Churches in a prosperous condition and there have been numerous additions to the membership of each one. There is, however, some trouble existing between Union Hill and Memphis Churches upon which they ask the advice of the Association

Respectfully submitted,

S. T. SPIVEY, R. D. DIXON.

Upon motion of J. R. Keyton the Moderator appointed as a Committee to adjust the difference between the Churches mentioned in the above Report: O. L. McArthur and A. F. Sinque-

field of Bluff Spring, R. Dixon of Enterprise, B. A. Forrester and N. S. Fellows of Cowarts. This Committee will make such disposition of the matter under consideration as they may deem best.

Called for and adopted the

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

We your Committee beg leave to make the following Report: We nominate for the Executive Committee Dan Williams, N. S. Fellows, T. R. Atwell, J. A. Summerford, J. S. Williams and B. A. Forrester, and that Bro. J. J. White preach the Introductory Sermon, Bro. Aris Armstrong alternate

Respectfully submitted,

T. A. JONES T. R. ATWELL, W. P. JORDAN.

Read and adopted the following:

REPORT ON TIME AND PLACE.

We your Committee recommend that the next session of this body be held with Bluff Spring Church on Wednesday before the first Sunday in November 1897 at 30 A. M. B. A. FORRESTER.

Called and adopted the

REPORT ON FINANCE.

We your Committee on Finance make the following Report:

Cash received for Minutes	\$37 25	
Associational Purposes	\$22 25	
Foreign Missions	\$32 60	
Home Missions	\$15 82	
State Missions	\$17 73	
Orphan's Home	\$49 80	\$175.42
Less Voucher		\$10.90
Paid to the Treasurer		\$164.52

Respectfully submitted,

N. S. FELLOWS, A. A. JONES, J. N. BOX.

(Note: These amounts do not include remittances made direct by the Churches during the year. Several Churches have made large payments for the different Missions and other purposes, but failed to send vouchers to the Finance Committee, hence do not get proper credit.—Clerk.)

Bro. B. A. Forrester offered the following Resolution, which was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION OF THANKS.

Resolved, that the thanks of this Association are due and hereby tendered to the faithful Brethren and Sisters of Camp Spring Church and the generous people of this community for their kind and hospitable entertainment of this Association

Moved that the Clerk be paid the usual fee for his services and that he have not less than 800 minutes printed.

Minutes were read and adopted.

Bro. S. Williford preached at the Church Wednesday. Bro. A. J. Preston at the School House on Thursday morning.

At 12 o'clock a motion to adjourn prevailed. After a hymn and parting hand and prayer by W. C. Cleveland, the Association adjourned to meet with Bluff Spring Church on Wednesday before the first Sunday in November, 1897.

F. W. ZIMMERMAN,

Clerk.

W. C. CLEVELAND,

Moderator.

CONSTITUTION OF COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 1 This union of churches shall be known and distinguished by the style and name of "The Columbia Baptist Association."

ART. 2 The object of the Association shall be to combine our Christian efforts for the purpose of carrying the appointed means of grace to dying men and women, and to regard all churches united under the constitution with a vigilant eye for good. Her principal object shall be to promote the declarative glory of God by extending His kingdom of grace on earth through the medium of preaching the gospel, and all other means within reach of a working christian organization.

ART. 3 This Association shall be composed of representatives from the churches as follows: Each church having one hundred members or less shall be entitled to two messengers and to one additional messenger for every fifty members or fractional part thereof in excess of one hundred. But in the business of the Association whenever the messengers from any church desire it the vote shall be taken by churches in which case each church shall be entitled to two votes.

ART. 4 The messengers when convened shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the appointment of a Moderator and Clerk, and these officers shall be chosen by ballot, or otherwise as the body may decide at each annual meeting, and continue in office until their successors are chosen. Should a y event transpire, so as to prevent any annual meeting of this Association, the Moderator shall have the power to call a meeting at any time and place, which meeting when convened, shall have all the rights of a regular meeting.

ART. 5 This Association shall not interfere with the rights of the churches of which she is composed. She shall regard them as independent bodies in all measures of internal government, and shall act in an advisory council assuming no authority but what is expressly delegated to her by the churches, or evidently implied by the very nature of the compact. But she nevertheless claims authority over her own members, the messengers of the churches, and in justice and propriety must have power to withdraw from and disown all churches that depart from the principles of the compact by holding opinions repugnant to the doctrines of the Scriptures, or are disorderly in practice.

ART. 6 Newly constituted churches or churches dismissed from Associations of the same faith and order may be admitted into this union on their sending up messengers to an annual meeting with a petition, and those messengers agreeing to the abstract principles adopted by the Association.

ART. 7 The churches in this union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association written communications specifying the names of messengers, members in fellowship, baptised, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored since last session, and such other information as the churches may deem important, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. 8 This Association shall have a fund, supplied by voluntary contribution of the churches; and all moneys thus contributed or otherwise received shall be transmitted through the finance committee to the treasurer who shall be elected by ballot or otherwise, as the body may decide, and hold his office during the pleasure of the Association.

ART. 9 It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a regular file of printed minutes of every session of this body and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. 10 This Association when convened shall be governed by proper rules setting forth the duties of officers and such other matters necessary for a deliberative body and may alter or amend such rules from time to time by a majority vote of the body in annual session.

ART. 11 The executive committee shall attend to such duties as may be imposed upon it by the Association, and when the Association is not in session this committee shall have power to fill vacancies that may occur.

ART. 12 This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of the Association by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, provided such alteration or amendment is not disapproved of by a majority of the churches in their written communications to the next annual session of the body.

DECORUM.

1st It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the deliberations of the Association in session, preserve order, submit motions or other matter and announce results when passed on by the body. He may have the same right of speech as any other member provided the chair be occupied, but is not allowed to vote, except the body be equally divided, in which case he shall give the casting vote.

2nd. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a correct record of the minutes of the proceedings in a clear and concise manner and immediately after the adjournment of each annual session to prepare a copy of the same for distribution to the churches for the payment of which he shall draw his draft upon the Treasurer of the Association.

3rd. The Treasurer shall keep a correct account of all monies coming into his hands, as well as the manner in which it is distributed. He shall only pay out money upon the order of the Association in session or the Executive Committee in vacation. He shall render an annual statement to the Association of all funds received and disbursed by him showing the balance, if any, remaining on hand.

4th This Association shall not consider any query or other matter effecting the churches unless they have first endeavored to solve the same and failed; nor any difficulty between churches unless they have pursued the direction contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew, and have not been able to bring about a settlement and reconciliation, in which case the Association shall take such matters under consideration, and act upon them or not at her discretion.

5th Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation and be acted upon by the body, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

6th Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject in debate.

7th No member shall speak more than twice upon the same subject without leave of the body. And it shall be a violation of these rules for any member to abruptly break off or absent himself without leave of the body; and if he does so he shall be liable to reproof by the Moderator.

8th. The Clerk, Treasurer and all members of the standing committees shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking and voting as other members except in cases where the interests of any individual church is to be affected by the matter at issue. In this latter case they may express their views but shall not be allowed to vote.

9th These rules may be altered or amended by a majority of the members in session.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Article 1. We believe in the existence of one only true and living God, and that he has made himself known to his people under the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the same in essence and equal in divine perfection. John 4: 24. Ps. 147: 5. Rom. 1: 20. Jer. 10: 10. Ex. 15: 11. Rev. 4: 6, 8. John 10: 31. John 5: 17.

Art. 2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and the only rule of faith and practice. 2 Tim. 3: 16, 17. Rom. 3: 1, 2. 2 Tim. 3: 15. Proverbs. 30: 5, 6. Rom. 2: 12.

Art. 3. We believe in the doctrine of election, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world, that they should be holy and without blame before him in love, having predestined them to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will. Tim. 1: 8, 9. Eph. 1: 3-12. 1 Pet. 1: 1, 2. Rom. 1: 5, 6. Rom. 8: 28-38. 2 Thess. 2: 13, 14. Ex. 33: 18, 19. Matt. 20: 15. 2 Pet. 1: 10, 11.

Art. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin. Gen. 1: 27. Gen. 3: 6, 24. Rom. 5: 19. Eph. 2: 1, 3. Ezek. 18: 19, 20.

Art. 5. We believe in man's incompetency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature by his own will and ability. Eph. 2: 8. Matt. 18: 11. Acts 13: 11. Isa. 53: 4, 5. Heb. 7: 25.

Art. 6. We believe sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ. Acts 13: 39. Rom. 5: 9. Rom. 5: 17. Rom. 4: 4, 5. Rom. 5: 19. Rom. 5: 1, 2.

Art. 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost. John 3: 3. John 3: 6, 7, 8. 2 Cor. 5: 17. John 1: 13. James 1: 14-18. 1 John 5: 1.

Art 8. We believe that nothing can separate the true believers from the love of God but that they will be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation John 8: 31. 1 John 2: 19. Rom. 8: 8. Phil. 1: 6. Phil. 2: 12, 13.

Art 9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ; that true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances, and that immersion only is baptism. Acts 8: 36-39 Matt 3: 5, 6. Matt 28: 19. Rom 6: 4. Col. 2: 12. Acts 2: 4, 42.

Art 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment. 1 Pet. 4: 7. Acts 1: 11. Acts 24: 15. Matt. 13: 49. Matt 25: 31, 46.

Art. 11. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting, and the joy of the righteous will be eternal. Mal 3: 18. 1 John 5: 19. Prov 14: 32. Luke 16: 25. John 8: 2-24. Matt. 7: 13, 14.

Art 12. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances unless he is called of God, and comes under the imposition of the hands of a Presbytery and is in fellowship in the church of which he is a member. 1 Cor. 1: 1-3. 2 Cor 8: 5. 1 Cor 11: 2. Rom 16: 17-20. 1 Cor. 4: 17.

Art 13. We believe that a proper administrator of the ordinance of baptism should be called of God, set apart by a presbytery and in full fellowship with the church of which he is a member. Phil. 1: 1. Acts 14: 23. 1 Tim. 3. Titus 1.

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ORDAINED MINISTERS

BELONGING TO THE COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Armstrong, Aris., Headland.
Cleveland, W. C., D. D., Columbia
Fordham, B. J., Pleasant Plains.
Keyton, J. R., Dothan.
Lisenby, H. L., Dothan.
Oliff, G. W., Cowarts.
Pearce, J. D., Dothan.
Savell, S. A., Halesburg.
Stewart, W. P., Columbia.
Skipper, J. C., Dothan.
Watson, J. F., East Lake.
White, J. J., Cowarts.
Deese, Z.
Spivey, S. T.
Williford, S.

STATISTICS OF COLUMBIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHURCH.	CO	PASTORS.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.
Ashford	Henry	S. A. Savell	J. P. Dupree	Ashford
Balkum	Henry	J. T. Barnes	S. C. T. Sasser	Balkum
Bethel	Henry	J. C. Skipper	G. W. Taylor	Dothan
Bluff Spring	Henry	J. J. White	J. G. B. Watson	Ashford
Camp Spring	Henry	S. A. Savell	J. F. Hasty	Columbia
Columbia	Henry	W. C. Cleveland	Geo. L. Campbell	Columbia
Cowarts	Henry	J. J. White	N. S. Fellows	Cowarts
Dothan	Henry		B. G. Farmer	Dothan
Ebenezer	Henry	G. W. Oliff	W. C. King	Oates
Enterprise	Henry	G. W. Oliff	W. F. Gilstrap	Ashford
Halesburg	Henry	W. P. Stewart	J. E. Register	Halesburg
Hickory Grove	Henry	A. H. Taylor	W. I. Hatton	Cottonwood
Liberty	Henry	G. W. Oliff	J. W. Brett, Jr.	Pansey
Memphis	Henry	J. C. Skipper	J. C. Stewart	Dothan
Midway	Henry	B. J. Fordham	J. M. Moates	Dothan
Mt. Ararat	Henry	Z. Deese	W. R. Nall	Pleasant Plains
Mt. Gilead	Henry	S. Williford	T. J. Auston	
Mt. Enon	Henry	G. W. Oliff	C. G. Hughes	Sanders
Mt. Pleasant	Henry	Aris Armstrong	J. M. Mann	Midland City
Mt. Sinai	Henry	Jas. Blunt	T. B. Fortson	Pinckard
New Prospect	Henry	J. M. Hall	H. H. Pool	Gordon
New Providence	Henry	J. D. Courtney	Jas. Clark	Sanders
Pleasant Plains	Henry	S. A. Savell	V. E. Webb	McRae
Pilgrim's Rest	Henry	G. T. Hurst	W. H. Miller	Crosby
Rehoboth	Henry	S. T. Spivey	J. G. Sanders	Sanders
Selma	Geneva	Aris Armstrong	Dan Folsom	Dothan
Sharon	Henry	D. E. Burdeshaw	W. H. Temples	
Shiloh	Henry	D. E. Burdeshaw	J. E. Harris	Pleasant Plains
Union Hill	Henry	M. P. Gilmore	J. A. Cameron	Cottonwood

ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR NEXT SESSION.

WEDNESDAY.

10:30 o'clock, Devotional exercises.
11, Introductory Sermon.
Reading of Letters.

RECESS.

1:30, Organization.
Reading reports of Standing Committees, Executive Committee and Treasurer,
Temperance.
Orphanage.

THURSDAY.

Devotional exercises.
Missions.
Preaching.

RECESS.

Missions continued.
Education and Ministerial Education.
Miscellaneous Business.

FRIDAY.

Devotional exercises.
Sunday Schools.
Miscellaneous Business.
Sermon.

N. B.—The churches will please notice that this order of business extends over two and a half days, and require their messengers to go prepared to remain till the close of the session.

